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Daily InfoNews...

Daily News Bulletin is a daily publication of the Cross River State Ministry of Information and Orientation for the entertainment and Education of all Cross Riverians and the general public about the daily events, activities and programmes of government and the private sector operating in all parts of the State.

Articles and stories in this publication may be reproduced.

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CROSS RIVER STATE

VISION STATEMENT

To become a leading Nigerian State with prosperous, healthy and well educated citizens; living in harmony with people and nature, and pursuing legitimate interest in freedom moderated by good governance.

MINISTERIAL MANDATE

To project and protect the image of Government and act as Chief Image Maker/Spokesman for the State as well as supervision of the State Media Organisation.

VISION

To be the best organ of the State for the promotion of positive values, its image and overall endowment to Cross Riverians, Nigerians and the Diaspora.

Mission

To utilize in harmony all apparatus of government media to effectively disseminate information, educate and entertain the public, using the electronic, print media and interpersonal communication channels.



Heartfelt

— Congratulations —
on

SilverBird

MAN OF THE YEAR



Our Dear Boss

We the privileged **First Eleven** in the College of Commissioners and Members of the Cross River State Executive Council, heartily extend our warmest congratulations to Your Excellency, Senator, Prince (Dr.) Bassey Edet Otu, on being honored with the National Award of SilverBird Man of the Year 2025.

This distinguished recognition is a huge reward for your Passion, visionary leadership, unwavering dedication and the transformative impact of your governance on the people of Cross River State and Nigeria as a whole. Your commitment to **excellence, integrity, and service** has continued to inspire us and set a high standard for public Service. This award not only celebrates your personal achievements but also reflects the collective progress and pride of Cross River State under your esteemed stewardship.

We are deeply honored to serve under your **guidance** and remain steadfast in supporting your vision and mission to advance development, unity, and prosperity in our dear State. We collectively pray that this recognition further strengthens your resolve to achieve even greater milestones in the **years ahead**.

With profound respect and admiration,
The College of Commissioners celebrates Your Excellency!

Congratulations Sir

Signed By:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. CHIEF VICTOR FELIX IDEM | - COMMISSIONER FOR LOCAL GOVT. AFFAIRS | 19. HON. AGNES ANYAMA ATSU | - COMMISSIONER FOR SPORTS DEVELOPMENT |
| 2. SEN. PROF. STEPHEN ODEY | - COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION | 20. HON. DR. ABIGAIL DUKE OROK | - COMMISSIONER FOR COMMERCE |
| 3. DR. EGBE AYUK | - COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH | 21. DR. MRS. HELEN ISAMOH EGODO | - COMMISSIONER FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS |
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| 7. MR. ODEN EWA | - COMM. FOR SPECIAL DUTIES AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS | 25. DR. MATHIAS U. ANGIOHA | - COMMISSIONER FOR INDUSTRIES |
| 8. BARR. MENSAH BASSEY | - COMMISSIONER FOR WATER RESOURCES | 26. CAPT. INAH ENO UTUM | - COMMISSIONER FOR AVIATION |
| 9. NTUFAM HON. EFFIOM EKAHA | - COMMISSIONER FOR MINERAL RESOURCES | 27. PASTOR EKPENYONG COBHAM | - COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORTATION |
| 10. MR. JOHNSON A. EBOKPO | - COMM. FOR AGRICULTURE & IRRIGATION DEV. | 28. NTUFAM EMMANUEL ANOM | - COMM. FOR LIVESTOCK, AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT |
| 11. CHIEF FRANCIS EKPENYONG | - COMMISSIONER FOR LANDS | 29. HON. PATRICK EGBEDE | - COMM. FOR WEALTH CREATION AND EMPLOYMENT |
| 12. ENGR. PIUS EDET ANKPO | - COMMISSIONER FOR WORKS & INFRASTRUCTURE | 30. BARR. ODUM IJOM UKAM | - COMMISSIONER FOR YOUTHS DEVELOPMENT |
| 13. PRINCE EKA WILLIAMS | - COMM. FOR POWER AND RENEWABLE ENERGY | | |
| 14. DR. HIPPOLATUS O. LUKPATA | - COMM. FOR INTERNATIONAL DONOR COORDINATION | | |
| 15. HON. EDEMA IROM | - COMMISSIONER FOR WOMEN AFFAIRS | | |
| 16. BISHOP MARGARET ENE-ITA | - COMM. FOR SOCIAL WELFARE AND COMMUNITY DEV. | | |
| 17. HON. LADY MRS LAWRENCIA ITA | - COMM. FOR ESTABLISHMENT, TRAINING AND PENSIONS | | |
| 18. DR. BEATRICE IGWE | - COMMISSIONER FOR HOUSING | | |



MAN OF THE YEAR
AWARDS
2025

SILVERBIRD

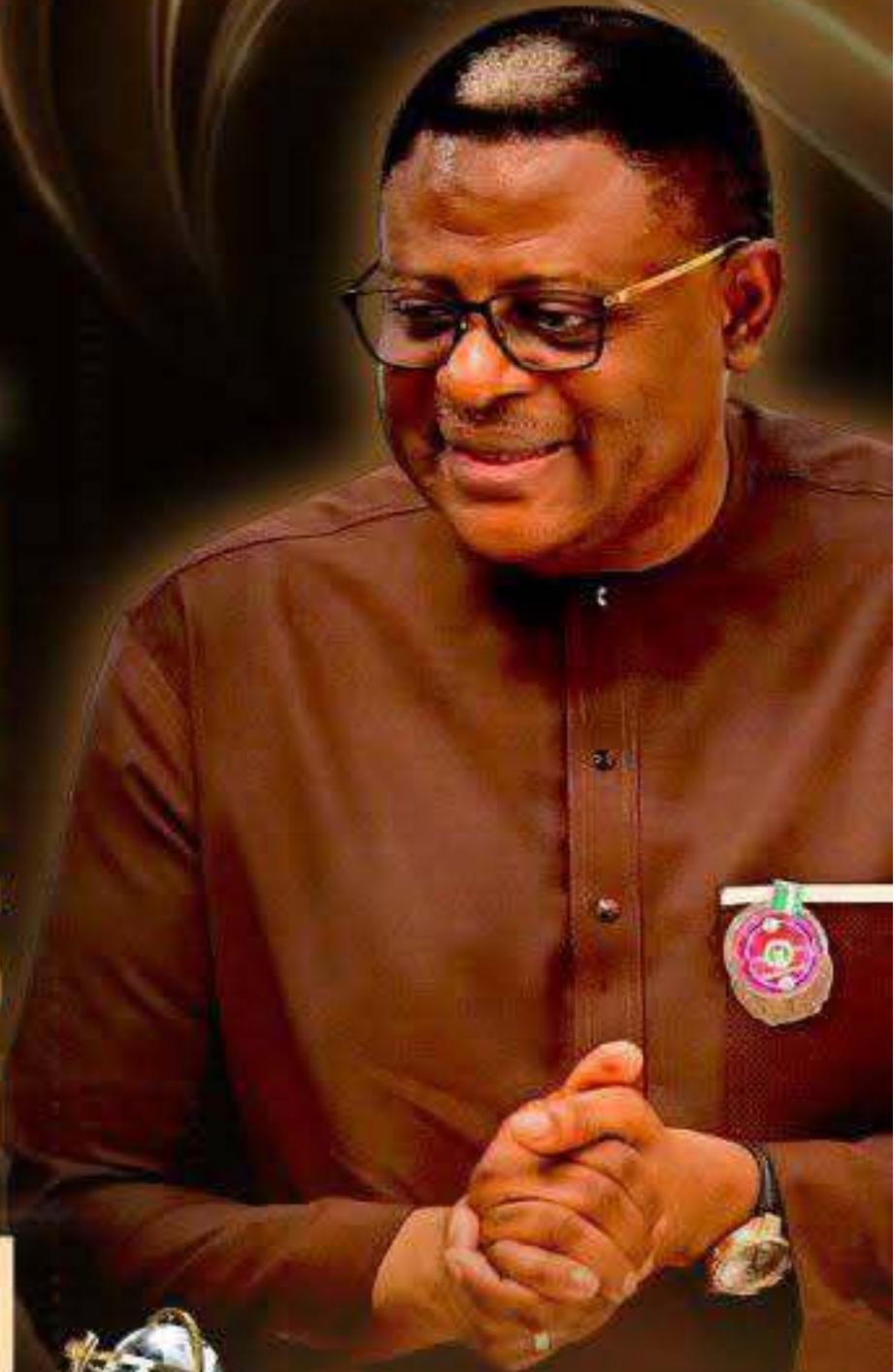
MAN OF THE YEAR

AWARD

 @silverbirdmoty



BASSEY EDET OTU
GOVERNOR OF CROSS RIVER STATE



Silverbird Award: 'Mandate for Greater Service,' Says Gov. Otu

By Kingsley Agim



Governor Bassey Edet Otu has described his emergence as the Silverbird 'Man of the Year' as a clarion call to higher service, dedicating the prestigious honor to the resilient people of Cross

River State.

Speaking at a gala held at the Eko Hotel and Suites, Governor Otu expressed profound gratitude to the Silverbird Group, stating he was "highly elated, deeply humbled, and gratefully

honored." He noted that receiving such recognition from one of Nigeria's foremost media organizations carries significant weight but declined to view it as a personal trophy.



"This award belongs to the collective sacrifices and unwavering support of Cross Riverians," the Governor remarked. "It is their resilience that fuels our administration's drive."

Accompanied by members of his cabinet, Cross River National and State Assembly members, local

government chairmen and other government officials, Governor Otu credited his "very dedicated team" for the state's current momentum.

He acknowledged that with increased national visibility comes a higher standard of accountability. "Our actions are now under a greater spotlight. This recognition is a

mandate to do even more," he assured.

Reaffirming his administration's 'People First' mandate and the 'Season of Sweetness' philosophy, the Governor highlighted that the state's economy is becoming increasingly competitive. He boldly asserted



Cisca Awards

that Cross River remains Nigeria's premier destination for investment and tourism, promising to sustain that trajectory in alignment with the national 'Renewed Hope' agenda.

The Governor concluded by thanking Silverbird Group Chairman, Senator Ben Murray-Bruce, pledging that the state would continue to be a beacon of

excellence. "You will never regret this award. We will continue to build, strengthen, and advance the development of our nation," he affirmed.



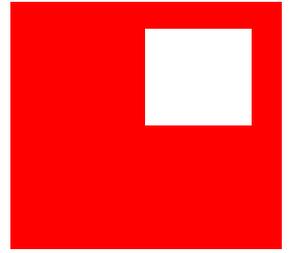














Congratulations
Your Excellency,



SilverBird Man OF THE YEAR 2025

Your Excellency, on behalf of my dear Family, Management and Staff of Ministry of Information, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on your emergence as the recipient of the 2025 SilverBird Man of the Year Award.

This prestigious award which is an exclusive preserve for great performers and high achievers in your class of personages is a true testament to your exceptional leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to excellence.

Your vision, resilience, and tireless efforts have not only inspired those around you but also brought meaningful progress and recognition to our dear Cross River State.

Indeed, this award is therefore a well-deserved acknowledgment of your remarkable contributions, high-level achievements and the positive impact you continue to make in the developmental trajectory of Cross River State in the last two and half years as Governor.

I pray with strong conviction that these achievements would serve as a source of Inspiration and motivation for even greater accomplishments in the years ahead.

With the deepest respect and warm regards, please accept our sincere congratulations Sir.



Erasmus Ekpang, Ph.D,anipr,ftifuh
Commissioner For Information
Cross River State





Felicitations!

■ Celebrating Exemplary Leadership And Distinguished Service

The Honourable Commissioner for Commerce, alongside the Management and entire Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Commerce, heartily felicitate with **His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Dr. Prince Bassey Edet Otu** on the conferment of the prestigious **Silverbird Man of the Year Award**.

This distinguished honour is a clear testament to Your Excellency's visionary leadership, unwavering commitment to economic transformation, and relentless pursuit of excellence in governance. Under your purposeful administration, Cross River State has continued to witness strategic reforms and bold initiatives that have strengthened commerce, industry, investment promotion, and sustainable economic growth.

Your Excellency's passion for creating an enabling environment for businesses to thrive, empowering entrepreneurs, attracting investors, and expanding opportunities for our people has repositioned the State as a competitive

destination for trade and enterprise. This national recognition further affirms the far-reaching impact of your policies and the confidence your leadership inspires across Nigeria.

As a Ministry directly aligned with the economic advancement agenda of this administration, we are proud to be part of this transformative journey and to witness firsthand the results of your dedication, integrity, and progressive vision.

On behalf of the Honourable Commissioner and the entire Management and Staff of the Cross River State Ministry of Commerce, we congratulate Your Excellency on this well-deserved honour and pray for continued wisdom, strength, and greater accomplishments as you steer our dear State to even higher heights.

Congratulations, Your Excellency! Bravo, The People's Governor!



Hon. Mrs. Abigail Duke Orok, Ph.D., JP

Signed:

Honourable Commissioner, Management & Staff
Cross River State Ministry of Commerce



Sights and Scenes from Day one of the 2026 Cross River State Energy Summit, theme, **“Unlocking Cross River’s Energy Using Sustainable Finance,”** holding at Calabar International Convention Center, Calabar.





GOVERNMENT OF
CROSS RIVER STATE



WELCOMES YOU TO

ENERGY CROSS RIVER 2026

UNLOCKING CROSS RIVER'S ENERGY USING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

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H.E. SENATOR
PRINCE BASSEY E. OTU
GOVERNOR, CROSS RIVER STATE

HOST







Congratulations
Your Excellency,

Sen. Prince Bassey Edet Otu

on your Award of
SilverBird Man
of the Year 2025



Hon Ngim Okpo
DG - Cross River State Border Commission,





Ayade @58:

Otu Celebrates Ex-Governor's Visionary Legacy



Cross River State Governor, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, has extended warm and effusive felicitations to his immediate predecessor, former Governor Ben Ayade, as he marks his 58th birthday, describing him as an erudite scholar, audacious reformer and patriot whose years in office etched indelible footprints on the sands of the state's history.

In a goodwill message

issued by his Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Linus Obogo, Governor Otu paid glowing tribute to Ayade's eight-year stewardship, characterizing it as a defining chapter in Cross River's contemporary political evolution—one shaped by intellectual vigor, expansive thinking and a resolute determination to recalibrate the state's

developmental trajectory.

"On this radiant milestone of your 58th birthday, I celebrate you as a distinguished statesman whose years of stewardship were marked by uncommon vision and courage," Otu stated.

"Your administration pursued industrial aspiration with clarity of purpose and an abiding faith in the boundless promise of our dear state."

The governor noted that Ayade's tenure was underscored by an unrelenting quest for industrialization, infrastructural renewal and economic diversification, adding that his bold initiatives sparked national conversations about subnational innovation

and the possibilities inherent in visionary leadership.

According to Otu, Ayade brought to governance the discipline of the academy and the daring of a futurist, blending scholarship with statecraft in ways that sought to expand economic frontiers and redefine governance possibilities within Cross River.

The governor also reflected on Ayade's earlier service in the National Assembly, where he represented Cross River with distinction before assuming the mantle of executive leadership. "In the Senate, your voice resonated with clarity and conviction," Otu said.

"You carried with you a wealth of legislative experience, lending insight and intellectual rigor to executive engagement in ways that strengthened democratic

governance."

Governor Otu observed that Ayade's years at the helm of affairs were marked by ambitious developmental blueprints aimed at repositioning Cross River within Nigeria's competitive federal landscape.

He described those years as a period of daring ideas and sweeping visions that challenged conventional limits and invited citizens to imagine a more industrially vibrant future.

"History will remember the audacity of your vision and the courage with which you sought to chart new pathways for industrial growth and innovation," the governor added.

"Your tenure inspired conversations about what becomes possible when leadership is driven by imagination, resilience and resolve."

He further described

Ayade as a leader whose abiding confidence in Cross River's potential continues to inspire political actors and the younger generation, noting that public service anchored on conviction and sacrifice ultimately bequeaths a legacy that transcends seasons and partisanship.

"As you mark this noble ascent in years, I pray that the Almighty grants you renewed vitality, deeper wisdom and abiding fulfillment," adding that "may the years ahead open fresh vistas of service and accomplishment for you, in continued dedication to Cross River State and our great nation."

Four Prosecuted Over Alleged Vandalism of Government Property

By: Kera Okem



The Cross River State Government through the Ministry of Justice has intensified efforts to curb vandalism of public assets, as four separate cases involving alleged destruction and theft of government property are

currently before the courts.

In one of the cases, ten suspects were apprehended on December 17, 2025, at a scrap yard along Ikot Ishie Road in Calabar over alleged possession of vandalized iron beams and metals reportedly removed from the state owned Calachika facility.

Following investigations, nine of the suspects identified as Ugochukwu Peter, Michael Agu, Ogenne Isreal, Mohammed Ibrahim Aliya, Abubakar Danladi, Abubakar Sanusi, Meshike Unana, Adama Musa and Abdullahi Aruna Musa were found to be truck drivers, motor

boys, loaders and a visitor with no connection to the alleged crime.

However, one suspect, Nweke Emmanuel Chikwado, was linked to the offence. In a court opinion dated January 5, 2026, it was recommended that he be charged with Breaking and Entering, Malicious Damage to Property, and Stealing, contrary to the Criminal Code Laws of Cross River State. He was arraigned on January 21, 2026, where he pleaded not guilty to the three count charge. The matter was adjourned to February 23, 2026, but proceedings could not continue due to the ongoing strike by magistrates. The case is being

prosecuted by Justina Ogban, Esq.

In a related development, Mr. Sunday Ezekiel Otubo was arrested on December 18, 2025, by the Anti-Vandal Team of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps during a routine patrol along Lemna in Calabar Municipal. He was allegedly found in possession of stolen items belonging to the Cross River State Calachika Poultry Farm located in Adiabo Community, Odukpani Local Government Area.

Otubo was subsequently arraigned before a Magistrate Court on charges of Breaking and

Entering, Malicious Damage and Stealing. The matter, initially fixed for hearing on January 16, 2026, could not proceed due to the magistrates' strike. Counsel for both parties have agreed to continue proceedings on March 11, 2026. The case is being handled by L. O. Asuquo, Esq.

Similarly, another case involving the alleged vandalism of solar street lights and panels at Ikot Abasi Obori Street, Calabar, was brought before the court. The defendant, Michael Inyang, is accused of coordinating and directing the vandalism. Legal advice recommending his

prosecution was issued, and he was arraigned in January 2026, where he pleaded not guilty. The case was adjourned to February 9, 2026, but was stalled due to the strike action. Following this development, the Honourable Attorney General of Cross River State Ededem C. Ani Esq. directed that the matter be transferred to the High Court for trial.

In yet another incident, Emmanuel Ufefe Peter was charged with breaking into and vandalizing public property at the Cross River State School of Nursing Sciences, Moore Road, Calabar. The items allegedly damaged include ceiling fans, air conditioners and aluminum window

frames.

He was arraigned on January 21, 2026, and pleaded guilty to the charge of breaking and entering. The court subsequently remanded him at the Nigerian Correctional Centre, Calabar. The case, earlier adjourned to February 2026, was further shifted to March 5, 2026, due to the magistrates' strike.

The cases underscore the state government's determination to protect public infrastructure and hold accountable individuals found culpable of vandalism and theft of government property.



Government of Cross River State, Nigeria

23rd February, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

SUSPENSION OF ALL SCRAP-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN CROSS RIVER STATE

The Cross River State Government expresses grave concern over the alarming rise in vandalism, theft, and the destruction of public infrastructure and private property across Cross River State. Critical assets, including public utilities, road installations, and essential community facilities, have been deliberately targeted, resulting in service disruptions, economic losses, and heightened threats to public safety.

Investigations and security reports have established a direct nexus between these destructive acts and the activities of scrap dealers, scavengers, and their agents operating within the State.

Given the urgency and severity of the situation, His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Bassey Otu, has directed the immediate review of all laws, policies, and regulatory frameworks governing scrap-related activities in the State and as an urgent interim measure to halt further damage, restore order, and safeguard State and private assets, His Excellency has further approved the immediate suspension of all scrap-related activities in Cross River State for an initial period of 6 (six) months.

This suspension applies comprehensively to all forms of scrap dealing, including but not limited to trading, scavenging, transportation, and any related operations within, into, or out of the State. Any individual, group, or entity found in violation of this directive shall be dealt with in accordance with the law and

 **Office of the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice Cross River State**

 Ministry of Justice, New Secretariat Complex,
Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar

 Attorneygeneral@crossriverstate.gov.ng
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shall face the full force of legal sanctions. All law enforcement bodies and relevant security agencies are hereby mandated to ensure strict compliance and enforcement without exception.

The Cross River State Government remains resolute in its duty to protect public infrastructure, defend private property, and ensure that residents feel safe and secure. These measures are necessary to prevent further sabotage of critical assets and to maintain public confidence.

The full cooperation of all residents, stakeholders, and lawful business operators is expected and appreciated.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping, fluid strokes that form the name 'Ededem Charles Ani'.

Ededem Charles Ani, Esq.
Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice

Transport Ministry Celebrates Director of Administration at Retirement

By Irene Bassey



In a ceremony filled with deep admiration and heartfelt tributes, the Ministry of Transportation on Friday in Calabar, celebrated the retirement of its esteemed Director

of Administration, Elder Mrs. Ansa Willie Etim, marking the end of a distinguished 35-year career in public service.

The event served as a powerful

testament to Mrs. Etim's unwavering dedication and profound impact on the state's administrative machinery.

The Honourable Commissioner for



person and I am not given to frivolities. If you were not productive, my attitude would let you know. Today, the entire Ministry have gathered to tell the world you are a good woman. I pray the Lord to give you His Grace in all your endeavours. whatever your hands touch, it shall be fruitful," he added.

Transportation, Hon. Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham, lauded Elder Mrs. Etim as a pillar of strength and a beacon of selfless service, describing her as the bedrock of administrative efficiency in this Ministry.

He emphasized how her diligence and unwavering

commitment were not merely personal attributes but vital forces that propelled the Ministry to achieve significant administrative milestones.

"Today, I celebrate fruitfulness, I celebrate dedication, I celebrate productivity. I am a very deliberate

Commissioner Cobham urged Mrs. Etim to remain a guiding presence in the Ministry by always keeping in touch with the staff she worked with.

The sentiment of respect and admiration was echoed by other key functionaries present.



The Commissioner for Women Affairs, Mrs. Edema A. Irom, who graced the occasion, spoke glowingly of Mrs. Etim.

"Everywhere you turn today, the narrative is the same: Elder Mrs. Ansa Willie Etim is a woman of exceptional character and

service," Mrs. Irom stated, highlighting the widespread positive reputation of the retiree.

Recognizing Mrs. Etim's dedication



to service, Mrs. Iron extended a personal invitation to her, that as she is stepping away from civil service, the Ministry of Women Affairs warmly welcomes her to consider active politics.

"I like celebrating hardworking women, Cross River State needs selfless women like you to lead and inspire." She said.

Dr. Gabriel Ukwada, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Transportation, provided further insight into Mrs. Etim's character, recounting her steadfast humility and impactful contributions.

His words painted a picture of a dedicated professional who consistently prioritized the smooth functioning

of the Ministry.

Responding to the outpouring of accolades, Elder Mrs. Ansa Willie Etim expressed profound gratitude.

"I thank God for His grace that has enabled me to serve the Cross River State Government for 35 years," she began, her voice filled with emotion.

She specifically thanked Commissioner Ekpenyong Cobham for the "distinguished occasion and all his kindness," noting his "easy accessibility and availability" as particularly impactful during her tenure.

Her appreciation extended to the Commissioner for Women Affairs and other dignitaries present.

Also, Permanent Secretary and staff of the Ministry of Transportation, for creating an accommodating and peaceful atmosphere at work.

She pledged, "I will always identify with this Ministry in whatever way I am needed."

The highlight of the well-attended event, which saw dignitaries including Mr. Linus Obogo, Chief Press Secretary and Special Adviser, Media and Publicity to the Governor of Cross River State; the representative of the Head of Service; Director Generals, Permanent Secretaries, and Directors of Administration from other MDAs, was the presentation of a retirement gift by the Commissioner, Pastor Ekpenyong Cobham on behalf of the Ministry.

This gesture symbolized the collective appreciation for Mrs. Etim's years of loyal and dedicated service. The celebration which included

moments of joyful retirement dance and musical interludes, was a fitting tribute to a woman whose legacy is etched in the administrative integrity and operational success of the Ministry of Transportation, and indeed, across Cross River State.

As Elder Mrs. Ansa Willie Etim embarks on this new phase of life, she leaves behind a powerful example of dedication, humility, and impactful public service.

DG BorderCom Congratulates Governor Otu on Silverbird Man of the Year Award



The Director General of the Cross River State Border Commission, Hon Ngim Okpo, has extended his profound congratulations to Senator Bassey Edet Otu, on his

emergence as the 2025 Silverbird Man of the Year.

In a statement, signed by the DG on behalf of Management and staff, the Commission described the

governor's recognition as a national validation of his "People First" philosophy, noting that true leadership is not merely about holding office but about transforming the collective



destiny of citizens through integrity and sacrificial service.

“This prestigious award by the Silverbird Group is a testament to the fact that hard work is the architect of fortune, and dedication is the bridge between vision and its realization,” the statement read.

The Commission

further praised Governor Otu’s administration for weaving a new tapestry of development across the state’s borders and communities, fostering peace, progress, and shared humanity.

They wished him continued wisdom, strength, and success as he pilots the affairs of Cross River State, expressing hope

that his “Season of Sweetness” agenda will yield prosperity for all citizens.

“May your light continue to shine as a guide for others to follow. Congratulations, Your Excellency,” the message concluded.

Head of Service Chides Civil Servant At 2nd Fitness and Medical Checks Exercise

By: Kera Okem



The second edition of the monthly Aerobics Training and Medical Check Programme for civil and public servants was successfully held

with an impressive turnout and renewed enthusiasm from participants.

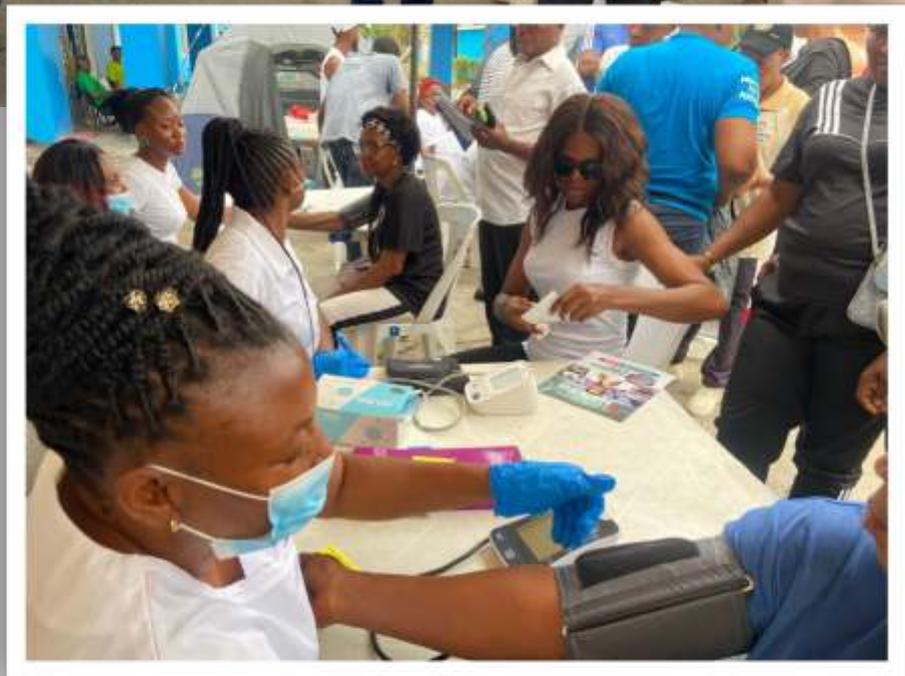
The exercise, which took place at the iconic U J Esuene

Stadium, brought together workers from various Ministries, Departments and Agencies who gathered in the early hours of the morning to



promote physical fitness and preventive healthcare.

The session commenced with energizing aerobics routines led by professional instructors, focusing on flexibility, cardiovascular endurance, and strength building. Participants engaged in a series of



coordinated movements, stretches, and light drills designed to improve overall wellbeing and reduce work-related stress.

The Head of service, Barr. Orok Bassey Okon encouraged all civil servants who are yet to participate to join subsequent



editions and take advantage of the free health screenings and guided fitness sessions.

According to him, the Monthly Aerobics and Medical Check Programme continues to serve as a proactive step towards building a healthier

workforce and fostering a culture of wellness within the public service.

Also Speaking, the permanent secretary Service welfare office, Dr. Mrs. Mary-Theresa Agede Abe, expressed satisfaction with the increasing participation and reiterated the

importance of sustaining the initiative as part of efforts to improve productivity and reduce health related absenteeism in the public service.

Preceding the workout session, medical personnel conducted basic healthcare screenings,



including blood pressure checks, blood sugar tests, hyperthitis assessments, and general health consultations. The medical team also offered lifestyle advice, encouraging

participants to adopt healthier habits and maintain regular exercise routines.

Many participants described the programme as refreshing and impactful, noting

that beyond physical fitness, it has strengthened unity and camaraderie among colleagues across different offices.



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Mission For Vision Seeks CRSG'S Support To Expand Eye Clinic

By Benedict Okache



The Mission for Vision Eye Centre operating under the auspices of the Tulsii Chanrai Foundation has appealed to the Cross River State Government to

intervene in their equipment and Infrastructural needs to enable them to expand and upgrade the current Eye Clinic to a full Eye Hospital.

Speaking during a

courtesy visit to the Honourable Commissioner for Information, Cross River State, Dr Erasmus Ekpang, in his office in Calabar, the Programme Manager of



Mission for Vision, Tulsi Chanrai Foundation, Mr Richard Silvestre, said the appeal for support is predicated on the huge turn out of Eye Patients from across the Eighteen Local Government Areas of the State as well as from South-South and South East

State, emphasizing available facilities are already over stretched.

"Currently, we are daily inundated with one eye challenge to another. In a week, we attend to over five hundred patients, including referrals, Mr Sylvester pointed out, adding that there is an urgent need for expansion.

"One of our biggest problem is Power supply which is not regular. The small generator we rely on for alternative power source can only carry lighting points. It can not our testing machines and Air Conditioners which are very critical to our operations", the



Mission for Vision Programme Manager quipped

Mr Richard Silvestre lauded Governor Bassey Edet Otu for placing high premium on health matters, acknowledging the Governor's intervention through the Commissioner for

Lands and the office of the Surveyor General of the State saved them from been thrown out of their current residence provided during the Governor Donald Duke led administration who brought the Foundation into the State.

He urged the State

Government to expedite action in the renovation of the newly allocated residential accommodation, stressing that they have living at the mercy of a former Commissioner for Health who has continued to extend the quit notices.



In his remarks, the Cross River State Commissioner for Information, Dr Erasmus Ekpang commended the Mission for Vision Programme in the State, noting that over the last twenty years, they have touched the lives of many families, assuring Governor Otu is

a passionate advocate for health and a healthy society.

Dr Ekpang said the Mission for Vision initiatives is one which Governor Otu will never hesitate to work with, promising to interface with the Commissioner for Health, Dr Egbe Syuk, under whose

purview the matter directly under.

The Information Commissioner applauded the Mission for Vision team, stating that they will work together to initiate an outreach in his constituency for the benefits of those with eye problems.

Dr. Henry Egbe Ayuk
Honourable Commissioner for
Health, Cross River State



A Healthy State Celebrates a Visionary Leader



**CONGRATULATIONS
HIS EXCELLENCY
SENATOR BASSEY EDET OTU,
SILVERBIRD MAN OF THE YEAR**

On behalf of the Ministry of Health and the entire healthcare workforce of Cross River State, I, warmly congratulate our People-First Governor, His Excellency, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, on his well-deserved emergence as the Silverbird Man of the Year.

Your recognition is a testament to the 'Season of Sweetness' you have ushered into every sector, including healthcare.

By prioritizing the life and well-being of every Cross Riverian, you have shown that true leadership is about service to humanity. This award is indeed a 'mandate for greater service,' and we stand ready to support your vision for a healthier, more productive State.





Congratulations to our 'Man of the Year'.



I join millions of Cross Riverians to celebrate our Governor, His Excellency, Senator Bassey Edet Otu, on his prestigious Silverbird Man of the Year Award.

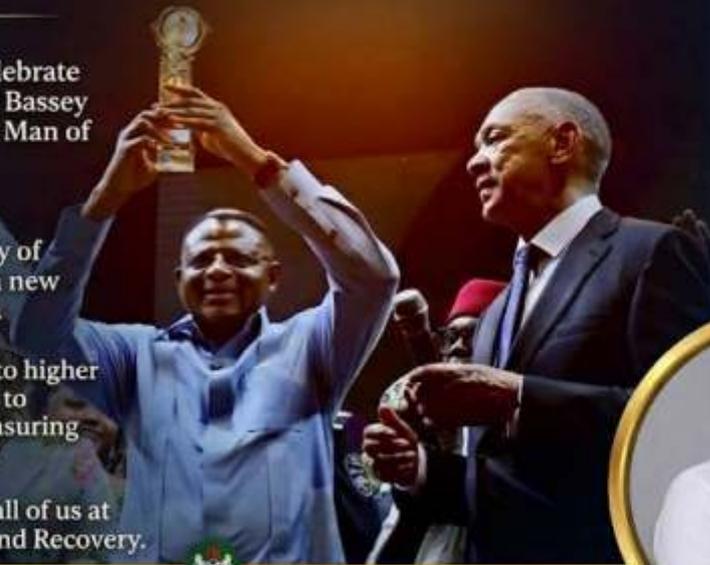
Your Excellency, your commitment to transparency and the strategic recovery of our collective commonwealth has set a new benchmark for accountability in Nigeria.

As you rightly noted, this honor is a call to higher duty. We are inspired by your dedication to securing the assets of our people and ensuring that the 'Season of Sweetness' remains a

Congratulations, Your Excellency, from all of us at the Department of Asset Management and Recovery.

Barr. Gilbert Agbor

Special Adviser to the Governor on Asset Management and Recovery



A Golden Award for the Architect of the "Season of Sweetness"

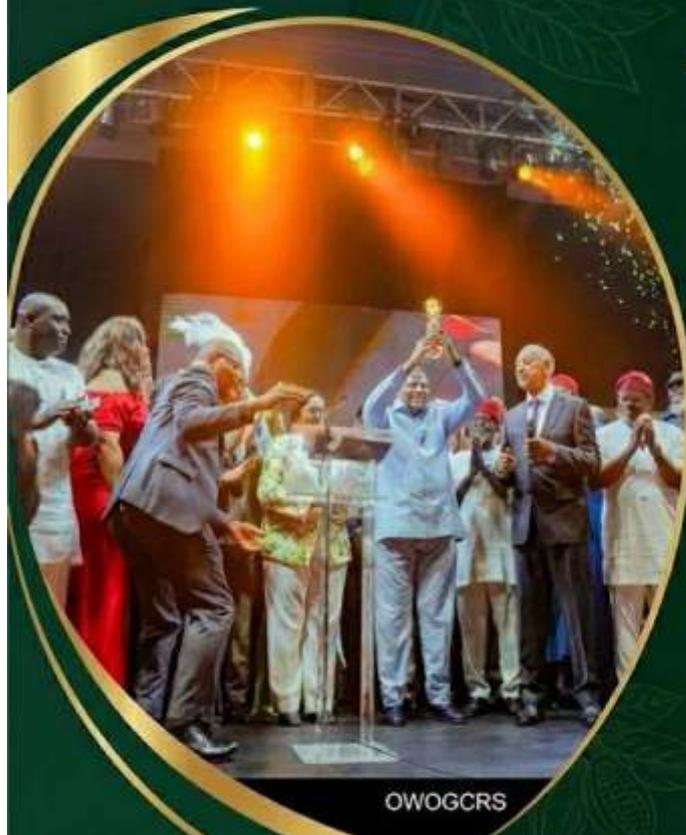
"The Cross River State Cocoa Allocation Committee, led by the Chairman, Mr. Cosmas Ebori Nku, heartily congratulates our Governor, **His Excellency, Senator Bassey Edet Otu**, on his decoration as the Silverbird Man of the Year.

This award validates your bold assertion that Cross River is Nigeria's premier destination for investment and productivity.

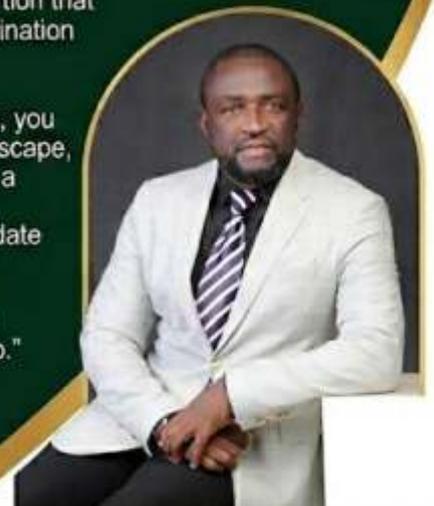
Through your 'People First' mandate, you have revitalized our agricultural landscape, giving our farmers and stakeholders a reason to smile again. We celebrate this 'Mandate for Greater Service' and pledge our continued commitment to making Cross River the cocoa capital of the nation under your visionary leadership."

Cosmas Ebori Nku

Chairman, Cross River State
Cocoa Allocation Committee



OWOGCRS



You Are Our Mouthpiece at the Grassroots - Ekpang charges CROs

By Oluchi-Florence Nwobodo and Victoria Udo



Cross River State Commissioner for Information, Dr Erasmus Ekpang, has reminded Community Relations Officers (CROs) of their critical role as the Government's "mouthpiece at the grassroots."

Speaking during a courtesy visit to him in his office in Calabar, Ekpang charged CROs to intensify efforts in relaying Government policies, programmes, and achievements to residents in their respective local government areas.

"You are the bridge between the Government and the people. Your work determines how well our message reaches the grassroots," Ekpang said, adding that Governor Bassey Otu's administration remains committed



to transparency, inclusivity, and citizen engagement.

He further urged the officers to deploy town criers, and social platforms in their domain to ensure no local government is left uninformed, stressing that effective communication remains key to sustainable



development.

While charging to take the propagation the reelection of Governor Bassey Otu for a second term following his laudable achievement that

has attracted numerous awards from reputation organizations, including the recently Silver Bird Man of the Year, the Commissioner maintained the Cross River and would not have



asked for less than a man who is concerned about the well-being and welfare of the citizenry.

Earlier, during their separate presentations, the Community Relations Officers for Abi Local Government Area, Mr. Ukata Runyi and Mr. Daniel Amba, expressed their unwavering support for the Governor's re-election.

They raised concerns about the voter registration exercise, noting that it has suffered serious setbacks due to challenges linked to the National Identity Number (NIN) integration, which they described as a major hindrance to continuous registration and called for urgent intervention by relevant agencies.

The CROs also used

the occasion to appeal to the state government to address their welfare needs and provide utility vehicles to aid their community engagement efforts, especially with the upcoming electioneering period expected to commence in August 2026.



C'River, Kano States Set National Benchmark for WASH Reforms

By Nakanda Iyadim



Cross River and Kano States have emerged as the primary blueprints for Nigeria's Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector.

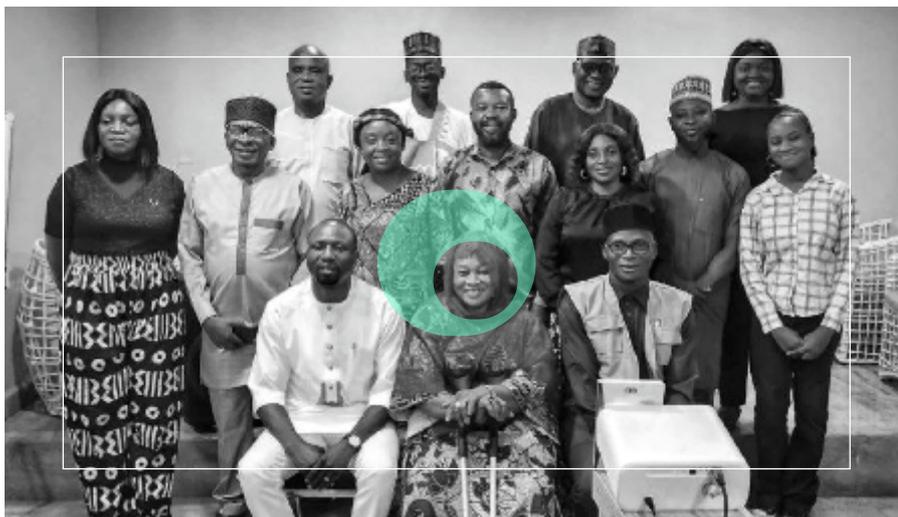
In a three-day advocacy workshop in Abuja hosted by the Women

Environmental Programme (WEP), stakeholders highlighted these States as essential models for achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 (universal access to water and sanitation) by 2030, calling emulation.

Speaking during the

event, Senior WASH Advisor at Self Help Africa, John Wali, labeled the two States "model performers."

He credited their success to three specific pillars of reform including Legislation which Cross River recently enacted



the Water Supply and Sanitation Law No. 5 of 2025, providing a solid legal framework for progress.

She listed another pillar to be Policy & Funding which he noted that the launch of a comprehensive State WASH policy, coupled with the consistent release of counterpart funding, has drastically improved infrastructure and service delivery.

Kano State was praised for strengthening

advocacy structures, making it a "pace-setter" for sub-national reform.

"Cross River stands out because its laws are backed by funding and high-level political will. This is the formula for sustainable reform," Wali explained.

To meet the 2030 deadline, experts are urging the remaining states and the FCT to replicate this "Cross River/Kano Model" by enacting enabling laws and clear policies, ensuring the timely

release of counterpart funds and supporting functional, community-led advocacy platforms.

Also speaking, Founder of WEP, Priscilla Achakpa, emphasized that community ownership and accountability are the final pieces of the puzzle.

At the end of the workshop stakeholders appointed new advocacy leads and deputies for both state chapters to ensure these reforms remain a permanent fixture of local governance rather than a temporary trend.

Bansara Community Set for Agric Boost as SPIN Project Takes Off

Bansara Rice Set for Agro Boost with Flood Control and Irrigation Farming starting soon

Blessing Enagu



Bansara Community, located within the Ogoja rice belt of Cross River State, is poised for a major agricultural transformation through flood control and irrigation farming under the

Sustainable Power and Irrigation for Nigeria (SPIN) Project.

This development follows the successful conclusion of a technical verification visit by the Federal Project Management Unit

(FPMU) of the SPIN Project to Cross River State.

The federal delegation, led by the Head of Technical Unit on Irrigation and Drainage, Engr. Mrs. Hauwa Sadique, conducted a



comprehensive assessment of the proposed site to ascertain its technical feasibility and provide implementation recommendations.

At the project location, the State Project Coordinator, Engr. Mrs. Justina Ulafor, guided the delegation across

the expansive farmland spanning approximately 630 hectares. The site is naturally supported by River Ayar, which is expected to serve as a sustainable water source for the planned irrigation infrastructure, enabling year-round farming activities.

The State Project Engineer, Engr. Dr.

Ndifon Agbiji, presented detailed engineering designs outlining the proposed layout and key infrastructure components. The presentation facilitated in-depth technical discussions on feasibility, scope, and implementation requirements.



Bansara, Cross River, Nigeria 🇳🇮
 Saint Peters Anglican Church, Street, Extreme, Bansara, Cross River 550102, Nigeria
 Lat 6.44622° Long 8.55469°
 Wednesday, 11/02/2026 05:51 PM GMT +01:00

irrigation scheme.

Speaking on behalf of the community, Elder Simon Ebi expressed appreciation to both the Federal and State Governments for selecting Bansara as a beneficiary of the project. He noted that as a predominantly rice-producing community, irrigation-enabled all-season farming would significantly increase yields and improve household incomes.

Beyond the physical site inspection, the delegation engaged extensively with community stakeholders, including the Council of Chiefs, youth and women leaders, and the Water Users Association (WUA),

which was constituted in accordance with project guidelines. The interactions highlighted the community's preparedness and institutional structures necessary to support effective implementation and long-term management of the

The Youth Leader, Mr. Anthony Awum, pledged the full cooperation of the youths, assuring the team of adequate security and a conducive working environment for personnel deployed to the



of addressing challenges such as flooding and drought, Mrs. Mogbor, however, raised concerns regarding limited market access for rice, input supply constraints, and inadequate access to finance. She appealed to government authorities to integrate market linkages and broader value chain considerations into the project framework, while reaffirming the community's commitment to the project's success.

In her response, Engr. Mrs. Hauwa Sadique expressed satisfaction with the level of organization and preparedness demonstrated by the community. She emphasized

site.

The WUA Desk Officer, Barr. Mrs. Theresa Mogbor, commended His Excellency, Senator Prince Bassey Edet Otu, for his deliberate and people-oriented agricultural programmes. She

also appreciated the Honourable Commissioner for Agriculture, Hon. Johnson Ebokpo, for his dedication in advancing the state's agricultural mandate.

Describing the SPIN Project as a timely intervention capable



that firsthand site verification is essential for accurate technical reporting and informed decision-making at the federal level. She further assured stakeholders that the project would enhance livelihoods, stimulate economic growth,

and significantly boost agricultural productivity in Bansara and its surrounding communities.

With the technical verification successfully concluded, preliminary steps toward project commencement are set to begin,

marking the start of a new phase of agricultural growth, resilience, and sustainability for Bansara and the entire Ogoja rice belt.



Tinubu Signs Executive Order To Protect Nigeria's Oil & Gas Revenue



President Bola Tinubu has taken a major step to safeguard and enhance Nigeria's oil and gas revenues by signing an Executive Order aimed at stopping wasteful spending, eliminating overlapping

structures in the sector, and ensuring that resources are properly redirected for the benefit of Nigerians.

Under the new order, NNPC Limited will no longer collect the 30% Frontier Exploration Fund nor the 30%

management fee on profit oil and profit gas. Previously, these deductions meant that a significant portion of the Federation's oil revenue was being held back, despite existing funds being sufficient to cover NNPC's operational

needs. From now on, all payments — including royalties, taxes, profit oil, profit gas, and even gas flare penalties — will go directly to the Federation Account, ensuring that federal, state, and local governments receive their rightful share.

The Executive Order addresses concerns over the PIA's structure, which had created multiple overlapping deductions and allowed NNPC to influence costs while functioning as a commercial entity. By removing duplicative fees and funds, the government aims to increase transparency, reduce leakages, and reposition

NNPC strictly as a commercial operator.

President Tinubu emphasized that the reforms are urgently needed to support national budgeting, debt sustainability, economic stability, and social development, particularly in areas like security, education, healthcare, and energy transition projects. He also approved a review of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) in consultation with stakeholders to address structural and fiscal anomalies.

To ensure proper implementation, a committee composed of ministers, NNPC representatives, the Budget Office, and the Nigeria

Revenue Service will oversee execution. The reforms take effect from February 13, 2026, marking a new era of accountability, efficiency, and fairness in Nigeria's oil and gas sector.

This Executive Order is more than a policy update — it's a clear signal that Nigeria's natural resources will now be managed with greater transparency, efficiency, and benefit to the people.



16th February, 2026

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to notify the general public that the recently Inaugurated Cross River State Planning and Development Control Enforcement Team has commenced the enforcement of compliance with town planning and development control laws across the State.

To this end, all property owners, developers and contractors are required to make available their duly approved building plans issued by the State Ministry of Lands, Town and Urban Planning at all ongoing and completed project sites.

Likewise, persons who have developed and are occupying government land without proper documentation and approval, are advised to do so forthwith.

Any development without approved plans, or failure to present same upon request, will attract penalties including stop-work orders, fines and possible demolition.

The public is thereby enjoined to cooperate with enforcement officers in the interest of orderly, safe and sustainable urban development.

Akiba .E. Akiba

Chairman,

Cross River State Planning & Dev. Control





STATE PLANNING COMMISSION
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
NEW SECRETARIAT COMPLEX
P.M.B.1104, CALABAR

Our Ref: GO/SPC/VC/VOL.1/202

Date: 11th February, 2026

The Speaker
The Hon. Chief Judge,
All Commissioners/Special Advisers,
The Secretary to the Government State,
The Chief of Staff,
The Head of Service
All Chairmen of Commissions & Boards,
All Permanent Secretaries/Special Assistants,
The Clerk of the House/Chief Registrar,
The Accountant General/Auditor General (State and Local Govt)
The Head of Personnel Staff to the Deputy Governor,
All Heads of Extra-Ministerial Departments/Parastatals

CROSS RIVER STATE PLANNING COMMISSION CIRCULAR NO. 3/2026

COLLABORATION WITH THE STATE BUREAU OF STATISTICS ON ALL STATISTICAL SURVEYS AND DATA COLLECTION ACTIVITIES

In order to mend the observed fragmented and unco-ordinated data production across sectors in the State, it has become imperative to issue this circular, as a reminder of the need for compliance by all MDAs and other organizations with government's subsisting guidelines/Laws on the conduct of statistical surveys and data collection activities in the State.

It is noteworthy that the authorized Agency to provide overall strategic direction and clearance on the conduct of statistical surveys and data collection in the State is the State Bureau of Statistics.

Regrettably, most MDAs/Organizations embark on statistical surveys and data collection exercise in the state without collaboration with, or due clearance of the Bureau. Thus, undermining the State Bureau of Statistics Law, our commitment to producing high quality, productive and mutually acceptable data for evidence driven governance, and ultimately the socio-economic development of our dear State.

Accordingly, in order to strengthen the quality, comparability, and utility of any statistical data originating from the State, all MDAs and our development partners intending to



collaborate closely with the State Bureau of Statistics in planning, designing and implementation of their surveys and data collection activities.

Any data generated and disseminated at any level without due involvement or clearance of the State Bureau of Statistics shall not be accepted as official statistical data of Cross River State.

The Planning Commission in collaboration with the Bureau of Statistics is committed to supporting in building MDAs Institutional Capacity for data collection.

The contents of this circular should be brought to the notice of all concerned.

This circular takes immediate effect.

Thank you, and please, be assured of our esteemed regards.



Dr. Bong Duke

Vice Chairman/CEO

Cross River State Planning Commission



**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**
OBUBRA - CROSS RIVER STATE
Shaping Leaders for Sustainable Development

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CALL FOR ADMISSION INTO **ND & HND** PROGRAMMES FOR 2026/2027 ACADEMIC SESSION

Purchase of Admission Forms

This is to inform all prospective applicants seeking admission into College of Agriculture, Science & Technology Obubra, that application forms are now available on the College website. Applicants are required to pay a non-refundable application fee of **Twenty-Five Thousand Naira (N25,000.00)** only into the College Account with **United Bank for Africa (UBA), Account No: 1028613027, Account Name: College of Agriculture.** Proof of payment, completed application form and credentials should be uploaded via the College portal at www.castobubra.ng/applications

Available Programmes

- National Diploma (ND) Animal Health and Production
- National Diploma (ND) Forestry and Environmental Technology
- National Diploma (ND) Fisheries Technology
- National Diploma (ND) Horticulture and Landscape Technology
- National Diploma (ND) Computer Science Technology
- National Diploma (ND) Hospitality and Tourism Management
- Pre-National Diploma/Remedial Programme
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Animal Production Technology
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Crop Production Technology
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Fisheries Technology
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Forestry Technology
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Agri-Business Management
- Higher National Diploma (HND) Agricultural Extension & Mgt.

Certificate Programmes

- Veterinary Clinic Assistant
- Forest/Game Management
- Beekeeping/Honey Production
- Fingerlings Productions
- Mushroom Production
- Snail Farming

Requirements for Obtaining Admission Form

Prospective Applicants are kindly requested to visit the College website at www.castobubra.ng/requirements to peruse admission requirements before completing the application form

Contact Lines

+234 813-191-3864, +234 706-108-0676

Technical Support: +234 812-393-4461

Email: enquires@castobubra.ng

**Visit the College at Ovonum-Obubra
for Further Enquiries**

Purchase of Form commences on
Monday 16th February, 2026 and ends on
Tuesday 17th March, 2026 @ 12Midnight
Visit: www.castobubra.ng/applications

Signed: **Dr. Gabriel Ojie Osang** - Registrar

Connect with us on our Social Communities     @castobubra

Extension of Early Bird Registration – NPRW 2026

Dear **Professional** Colleagues,

Following the overwhelming number of requests received by the National Planning Committee from various chapters across Nigeria regarding an extension of the Early Bird registration deadline, we are pleased to announce that a one-week extension has been approved.

We encourage all members who are yet to complete their registration to take advantage of this additional opportunity.

Please note that the new deadline for Early Bird registration is midnight, 8th March 2026.

We look forward to your active participation.

National Planning Committee NPRW 2026



NPRW
Nigeria Public Relations Week
Croc City 2026
April 19-25th

"Food Security: From Policy Paper to Public Plate; the Imperatives of Public Relations."

Umaru Musa Yar'Adua Centre (Murtala Square), Kaduna State

REGISTRATION FEES:

NIPR MEMBERS:	EARLY BIRD: N95,000 <small>1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 25TH FEBRUARY 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	EARLY BIRD: N135,000 <small>1ST DECEMBER 2025 - 25TH FEBRUARY 2026</small>
NIPR MEMBERS:	REGULAR: N120,000 <small>1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	REGULAR: N170,000 <small>1ST MARCH - 10TH APRIL 2026</small>
NIPR MEMBERS:	LATE REGISTRATION: N170,000 <small>11TH - 18TH APRIL 2026</small>	NON NIPR MEMBERS:	LATE REGISTRATION: N200,000 <small>11TH - 18TH APRIL 2026</small>

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Nigerian Institute of Public Relations
National has approved a 20% discount for WPRF registration for those who register for NPRW



NPRW
Nigeria Public Relations Week
Croc City 2026
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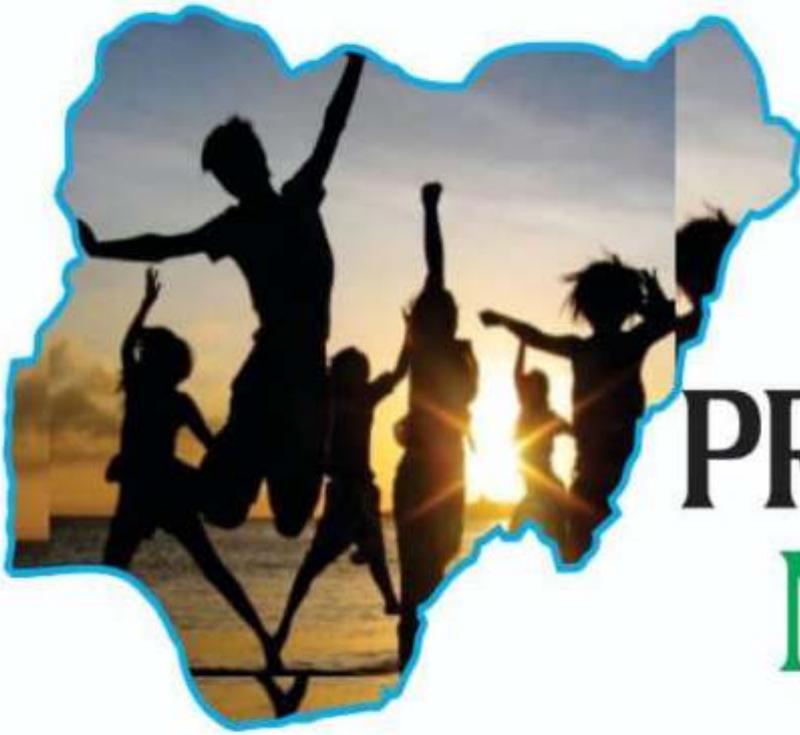
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YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@ProgressiveGovernorsForumPGF>

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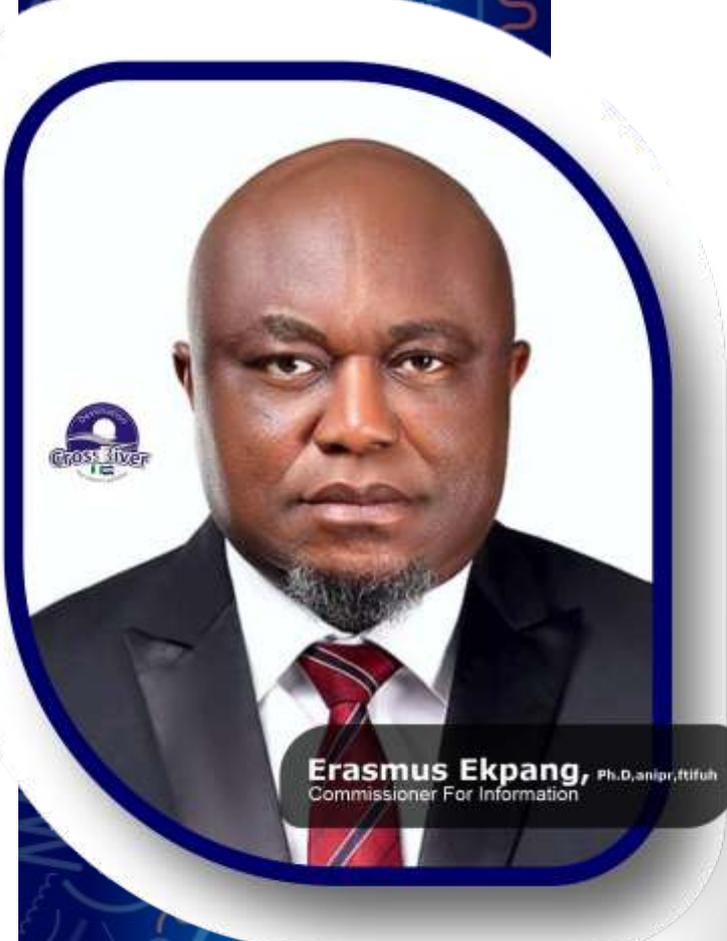
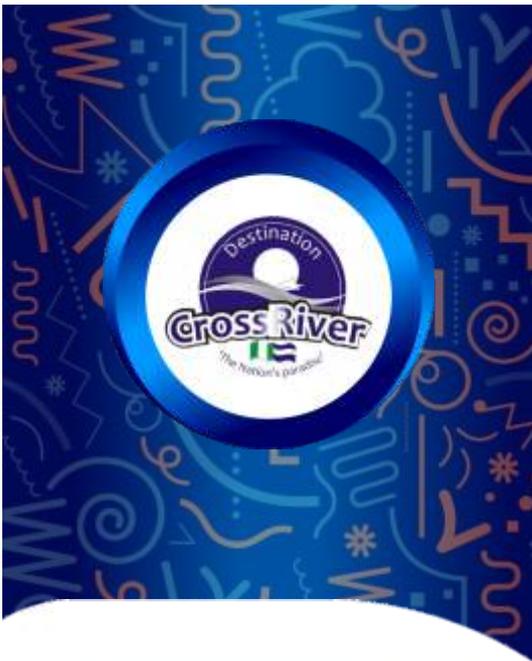
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pgfnigeria/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ProgressivePGF>

Tiktok: https://www.tiktok.com/@pgf_2023

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@ProgressiveGovernorsForumPGF>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pgfnigeria>



Erasmus Ekpang, Ph.D, anipr, ftifuh
Commissioner For Information



Join the **APC PARTY** **MEMBERSHIP**

E-Registration Exercise

**TO BE A CARD CARRYING
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Requirements:

Must be 18+

Must Have Valid NIN

**Old members MUST
Revalidate their
MEMBERSHIP**

Be A Part Of The Winning Party



The Hon. Speaker,
The Hon. Chief Judge,
All Commissioners/Special Advisers,
The Secretary to the State Government,
The Chief of Staff,
All Chairmen of Commissions and Boards,
All Permanent Secretaries Special Assistants,
The Clerk of the House/Chief Registrar,
Accountant-General/Auditor-General (State & Local Govt.),
The Head of Personal Staff to the Deputy-Governor,
All Heads of Extra-Ministerial Departments/Parastatals

HEAD OF SERVICE CIRCULAR NO. 1/2026

PAYROLL AUDIT, CREDENTIALS/PROGRESSION VERIFICATION FOR SERVING OFFICERS AND PENSION VERIFICATION FOR PENSIONERS

The attention of all Civil Servants in the State Public/ Civil Service is hereby drawn to the approval of His Excellency, the Governor of Cross River State, authorising the Office of the Head of Service to conduct a comprehensive Payroll Audit and Pensioners Verification for the State Public Service.

The exercise is aimed at:

- Ensuring the integrity and accuracy of the State payroll.
- Verifying Staff credentials, appointments, promotions and progression records.
- Eliminating payroll irregularities and strengthening personnel management systems.

The Payroll Audit will be conducted simultaneously with Credentials and Career Progression Verification for serving officers. While a Pension Verification Exercise will be carried out for pensioners. The Nigerian Union of Pensioners (NUP) is hereby notified accordingly.

All serving officers are directed to immediately collate and present copies of their service records to the administrative heads of their MDAs, but not limited to:

- Letter of First Appointment
- Letter of confirmation of appointment
- All Promotion Letters up to current grade level
- All Educational Certificates used in the course of service
- Any other official personnel records as may be required

Further details on the schedule, modalities and documentation requirements for the exercise will be communicated in due course.


Orók Bassey Oken
Head of Service





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Citizens.
Responsive
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For more information:

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YouTube: <https://youtube.com/@ProgressiveGovernorsForumPGF>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pgfnigeria>



Indiscriminate

BUSH

BURNING

**is still outlawed
in Cross River State.**

**Do not indulge in indiscriminate bush
burning. Avoid the wrath of Government.**

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Cross River State

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01-4482998





STEPS TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IN CROSS RIVER STATE

- 1** Obtain an Application Form at CRGIA's Office, Old Secretariat Road, Off Murtala Mohammed Highway, Calabar, Cross River State
- 2** Submit Application Form with Required Documents
Fill and submit the form along with necessary documents, e.g. Registered Title Document, survey plan, identification, etc.
- 3** Assessment and Payment of Fees.
The office will assess applicable charges, registration fees, processing fees, etc. Make the required payment.
- 4** Inspection and Publication (for private land)
Property is inspected by LUAC officials
Notice of application is published for 21 days to allow for objections.
After clearance, Governor's Approval in Principle is obtained.
- 5** C of O (Certificate of Occupancy) Engrossment and Signing
The Certificate of Occupancy is prepared (engrossed) and signed by the Governor or delegated authority.
- 6** Registration and Delivery
Final registration is completed at the Lands Registry.
Registered documents are delivered to the applicant (client).

NATIONWIDE CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION (CVR)



Register to Vote

**ONLINE PRE-REGISTRATION
STARTS ON 18TH AUGUST, 2025**
www.cvr.inecnigeria.org

**IN-PERSON REGISTRATION
STARTS ON 25TH AUGUST, 2025**
*All 37 INEC State Offices or 774 Local
Government Area (LGA) Offices
Nearest to You*



- i** New Voters 18+
- Collect or Transfer your PVC
- Replace your lost or damaged PVC
- No Multiple Registration

✉ iccc@inec.gov.ng

🌐 www.inecnigeria.org
www.inecnews.com

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09050858629, 09050858675,
09050858649

*INEC, Making your votes count...
Consolidating our democracy.*

📱📺📷 @inecnigeria

**Avoid
Overspeeding:**

**Speed thrills
But Kills.**

**Always obey
speed limits**

— FRSC —

CROSS RIVER STATE SECTOR COMMAND